8/2/69

Dear Paul,

Thnaks for the good wishes and enclosures with your letter or 7/31/ My basic attitude on making material available to others is and always has been yours, with the one and completely usual and traditional difference that, as a writer, I ask for and expect, in relatively few cases, that the first use of my material be permitted me. This is not always for literary use only, as you should be aware, but for others. Before I met the LA people I sent them a copy of the ms of WWII, offered to (and did get) things from the Arcgives for them. I think that this is true of everyone with whom I have been in friendly contact. Ig got and gave pictures to Fred, for example, after I knew he was lying, simply to help. As Hal can tell you, when people come here, they have acces to my files, directly. They do not even have to ask me for them. Bud, for example, left my puctures files in diarray after copying them and took and made a slide of what I had forbidden, then told Turner about that in your presence. I am not, really, paranoid about this and not as careful as I should be. Despite the feelings of which you are aware, the last thing I did before I left N.O. was copy an enormous amount of unpublished material for them and give them copies of two unpublished books, which they did use to some good purpose in that debalce. This is intended for your further understanding of the Lifton business and generally.

It is slowly becoming clear that Dave began a campaign against me in about June of 1966, or I should say that is when I got first notice of it. This cannot be because of any contact between us. I'd never heard of him. By now it has increased in magnitude to where it is simply incredible, and it has had the most serious and damaging effect on our collective work. He has not limited it to the United States. It extends to as far away from California ad New York and Florida - and who knows how many in between places. It was in such fine detail that he sent a memo misrepresenting my work to the New York Times, the one paper that had ever made decent news mention of my work and the result was they almost entirely ignored OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, despite Ihss' high opinion of it. He has actually gone to this trouble to end cooperation between me and a number of people. And without any exception, no matter how slight, there is nothing even approximating a factyal basis for it. In every case of which I have been told, there is no innocent explanation for what he has lied about and in every case it has been false and to his knowledge had to be. As you well know, I tried to ignore it and him, and it was only on your advice (which was correct) that I phoned him when last I was there. Until recently I have content myself with ignoring this and him and with the explanation he is unfortunately sick. This has now reached the point that while I have no proof he is other than sick, I can no longer go on that assumption alone and it is not the only possible explanation.

A ppreciate the candor of your suggestion that you may have been the source of some of what he may have exaggerated or improvised upon. He apparently does this sort of thing regularly and there seems never to be an occasion on which, in his own way, he doesn't pump. Those with experience other than mine might not so recognize it. Now it simply is not honorable to seek the work of others save with their assent. He has yet to ask me for anything of mine, but he unfailingly seeks it from those who may have it, his approach seeming to vary with his appraisal of the person he approaches.

The hazard is not use but misuse. You know of some cases of this. Need I remind you of the classic, those sewers" and Jim? It would be much better if the government did not know what John will be using in his suit until he uses this. This was the only reason for my injunction on what I sent out. I have no other plans for it, though that might change as the future unfolds.

If he lacks specific information he has said otherwise.

And the coincidence between his questioning of you on the examination of "original materials", when he knows every document is a xerox, and the government's problem in the Nichols suit, is remarkable. He had to wait all this time to ask that question, only when it coincided with a government situation. Of course, this can be coincidence, but need it be, especially with all the others? He knew the Zapruder film has been mechanically examined by me.

I am not really concerned about what others thing of my work, although, I think naturally, those whose opinions I respect I would prefer to like it and me. I raised that point simply because I thought it was past time for you people out there to realize that you were being used in a campaign the best purpose of which, meaning the least harmufl, was more divisions between us.

I can understand you feeling wanting to stay out of all this, for I would prefer it. And I make no demands upon you. But until you see the total and malicious misrepresentation of that Recede incident you will not really know the man you are dealing with on a basis of trust and what he is really up to. But that is entirely your affair. This is a man who makes Liebeler look honest.

Nothing at all may come of this save the damage already done, which is consierable, in turning people off and ending much fruitful collaboration. But it is foolhardy now to assume this and I am unwilling to. Thatbis to attribute more to sickness than my limited experience with sick people warrants. It is no less than undiluted evil, from whatever motivation.

The first two items of 7/5 were and must remain elliptical. They relate to a person, one of the extremely few, who has access to a KP. Consistent with my desire to inform you personally of what it may be to your interest to know, I chose indirection rather than silence. I am in correspondence with the subject of those paragraphs, friendly correspondence, and he has asked me to ghost a book for him.

I can only wonder about the nature of Lifton's "original" work when he spends time getting prinouts of the ONI file. Sorry you didn't recall that I had had one made as a substitute for a teethig ring for one to large for the latter. I do have a copy of the FWCC microfilm. I have never had a chance to read it. I think you or Hal sent me one or twompages from it with names listed.

When next I'm in Washington I'll attend. Check on Bud, but perhaps that could be faster. Please leave that to me for the first attempt anyway, for he is there and I am not, he can get immediately as I cannot. If the first doesn't work well, we'll know for the future.

Do not misunderstand my attitude toward political differences. Chapman, who did excellent work for me that Jim abused so stupidly, is a virulent anti-Semite and a Klansman, eyt I accepted and directed his help. Recently I had a call from J.B.Stoner and as a result I have written him. I have invited Mark to come here and go through my files. Some of the best help I've gotten has been from those generally onsidered right-wing extremists, and I've been grateful for it. And I reciprocate. Is there any other rational way?

I am certain you do have CD 206:223 on Lawrence. If I said I have pp 222-3 I was either wrong or do not have it carded. The pages ate 216-8, with CD152: 51 pertinent. This is the other James lawrence and I think this should not be given to or discussed with anyone for reasons set forth in a letter of which I sent you a copy that I wrote Jim right after the Shew trial. It dealt with the problem he called "communicating".

If anyone goes to N.O. I am reasonably confident that Healey will let him have access to and make copies of the mircofilm for me, re:stickey.

I have copies of his 2/24, 3/31 and 4/16/62 stories. Somewhere Inhave a list of others but not in the right file.

Of course, whatever you have in the L printours that will intereset me I look forward to. What I have from those files you have. When Gary and Hal were here they went over them, as you and I had discussed in advance, and I made copies of what they got and sent them to you. In your letter to Rennar, 7/24, you refer to the last two ONI peges. Did you send me these?

11/25 speech in works. Ditto autopsy memo, but again, make no mention to anyone because Bud has agreed to file suit for me on this. Let it come out then. And not until. It is not "need to know" stuff.

One the business of names: it is simply that I mlike to credit and believe it is proper, not on anything other than what others discoverer and develop or what they refer me to or give ne. I have done this from the first. The only exceptions (where Lifton was a bastard) are where they ask otherwisel and in ach of those cases I have it in writing. I just think this is the right way. If by the time I get around to writing I do not recall each case, I want to record those I do. I think this is not only the course of honesty but more, the essential one for others in the future, so they will know where to look. I once presumed it was notmal among scholars but I find they are the biggest crooks and accept this and expect thievery. One of the problems is I cannot remember all of it. In PW I switched credits between Ray and Dave. I credited both, but each for what the other had done.

Some time ago (your 7/31 to Gary) I asked for the LHO tax returns and was told they are restricted. Whatever this shows in the end will interest me for AGENT OSWALD.

Next to last paragraph: there is a subtle but significant difference between the legal purposes of an autopsy and those stated. The legal purpose is also to establish guilt or innocence of the accused or to be adcused.

I will go over the CD enclosures carefully when I have a short time not enough for writing, from which I've taken time for immediate response. Thanks. On Turner clip: I hope Epstein's lawyers do not subpena me as a defense witness vs Turner! I would and could prove exactly what he says they allege and could not honestly do otherwise. But there is little likelihood.

Rennar letter: Item 9. By all means. Tell him I also have more but unless he has urgent need, I'd like to keep it for COUP, where it already is and also because I am still working on current angles. If his interest is Hall, he id also welcome to my interviews with him and Howard. I presume you have. Everybody had those transcripts before I did! Turner was quoting them before I knew they were completed (so he has also).

I would prefer that he find it expedient to say not a word about CE 710. That is now more impirtant than when you read ms COUP and it would be desireable for it to await complete story.

Although it costs more, I think it would be an excellent idea for him to get the most up-to-date copy of the 184 list of CDs and then make a list of those still "xed". We could tus learn, perhaps, what has been declassified since we got our copies. He should be specific in ordering. Let him do it directly rather than your doing it, and without any committee name.

Would I love to see that Powell picture. Is there any record of a print having been made?

From what I have sent you recently, it would appear, on the surface, that Mac has done some good. I have yet to hear directly from him.

On my health: there is little I really know and can say. It seems to be of nervous origin or cause, although there is little doubt the past five years have been an enormous and aging physical drain. Tranquilizers seem to be of some benefit. Here what Lifton has been doing and the aggrevation and time it has caused me are not helpful.

I'm slogging along on the addition to COUP. It is now over 100,000 words and I think solid and persuasive. I use the methods with which youkare familiar but in a different manner, telling the facts and story in terms of the participants. It adds up only one way. While the hours I spend at the typewriter produce the customary number of pages per hours, I must spend fewer of them and some times the concentration is disturbed by the way I feel. I haven't read any of it yet. I do think and hope most reasonable people will find it valuable, authentic, probable and credible.

Excuse haste and erros, and again thanks. Tell Jim I am anxious to hear from him. The only reason I haven't given details is security, but I will if you or he desire and you will see it in the work.

Best,

cc Gary